

Purton Constable info

W&SHC Ref: 336/56 (Doc 1)

To the petty Constable and Tithingmen of the Parish of Purton

These are to enquire and command you that forthwith you take the Body's of Jane Hooke and Anne Trow of your Parish, Spinsters, and bring them before me or some other Justice of the Peace of this County to answer to such matters and things as shall be objected against them by the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of your Parish of Purton aforesaid and you are to give notice to the Church Wardens and Overseers of your Parish to appear at the time and place to make good their complaint. Fail not. Given under my hand and seale, September 23rd 1724

William Davis

Doc 2.

Wills to Wit: To the Petty Constables or Tithingmen of Purton

You are hereby required to summon your Overseers of the Poor to appear before such of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for this County, as will be assembled at the King and Queen in Highworth on Thursday the 13th day of this instant, by 10 of the clock in the fore noon, and deliver to those said Justices a fair amount in writing of all the monies by them received and disbursed, for and towards the relief of the Poor for the year past, and at the same time to deliver to the said Justices a list of competent number of inhabitants duly nominated and qualified to be Overseers of the Poor for the year ensuing. Fail not. May 8th 1742

James Sheppard – Constable.

Doc 3

Wills to Wit. To the Constables and Tythingmen of Purton

Whereas upon complaint by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of this parish of Purton in the said County, that Mary Clark Spinster intruded herself into the said parish and was likely to become chargeable thereto, they obtained an Order under the hands and seales of two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County to remove the said Mary Clark from the said parish of Purton to the Parish of Wootton Bassett in the same County (that being the place of her last legal settlement) and accordingly did remove her; since which the said Mary Clark did of her own accord return to the said Parish of Purton from whence she was removed.

These are therefore to require you to apprehend the said Mary Clark and bring her before me or some other of his Majesties Justices of the peace for this County to answer the premises and further to be dealt with according to law hereof. Fail not. Given under my hand and seal this 19th day of April 1760.

Edward Pleydell

Doc 4. Printed Certificate form (Warrant)

Wilts. To Wit. To the Constables, and all other Peace and Parish Officers, withif Thesen the Parish of (Purton).

Whereas Ralph Godwin being in or about the 24th March 1809 lawfully settled in the Parish of Rodborne Cheney in the said County of Wilts did come to inhabit in the Parish of Purton in the County of Wilts aforesaid, not having gained a legal settlement there, and upon complaint made by the proper Officers of the said Parish of Purton that the said Ralph Godwin has actually become chargeable to the said Parish, they

obtained an Order to remove him and accordingly did convey and remove him to the said Parish of Rodborne Cheney since which the said Ralph Godwin did on his own accord unlawfully return to the said Parish of Purton from which he was so removed as aforesaid without bringing a Certificate: These are therefore to require you, that you, some or one of you, do forthwith apprehend the said Ralph Godwin and bring him before me to answer the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law – *to the House of Correction aforesaid, and there to deliver ----- to the Keeper thereof, together with this Warrant, requiring you also the said Keeper to receive ---- into your Custody, there to keep to hard labour for one month* - Given under my hand and seal the 24th Day of May in the year of our Lord 1810.

Words in italics crossed out.

The seals and signatures of Thomas Calley and W. Jones

Doc 5. The Hundred of Cricklade and ? in the County of Wilts

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Purton in the said County of Wilts.

By Virtue of an Order from his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, in their General Quarter Sessions assembled, you are hereby required, *in thirty days time from your Receipt of this Precept, or otherwise having had due notice thereof*, to pay to me, out of the money by you collected for the relief of the Poor, the sum of £13.5.4 being the Proportion of the said Parish for an towards the general County Rate, for the repairing of Bridges, repairing of the Gaol, and for the Relief of Prisoners therein; and for the Relief off the Prisoners of the King's Bench and Marshalsea Prisons; repairing the Shire Hall; repairing the furnishing the House of Correction, with the Salary of the Keeper thereof; the Treasurer's Salary; the Coroner's Fees; the Charges concerning Vagrants, Soldiers' Carriages, convicting and transporting Felons, and other county Charges. And herein you are not to fail, on the Peril that shall ensue thereof. Given under my Hand the 12th day of April 1799 you are to pay the

money on Thursday next the 18th instant at the White Horse Inn at Cricklade at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

John Godwin

High Constable

Words in italics crossed out

Doc 6. Wills to Witt: To the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Purton.

Upon complaint of James Compton of your Parish labourer this day made unto me that by reason of sickness and other bodily infirmities, he is reduced to Poverty and wants Relief for himself his wife and seven children and he has applied to you and attended your Vestry and has complained but you refuse to relieve him. These are therefore to summon and require you upon sight hereof personally to appear before me or some other Justice of the Peace for this County and show just cause why you refuse and deny Relief for the said Poor man and his family. Fail not. Given under my hand and sent the 11th day of November 1741.

Ha Freke

Doc 7. Wills to Witt: To the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Purton.

Whereas complaint hath this day been made unto me on oath by James Compton of your Parish, Labourer, that he having a great family, is reduced to poverty and that he hath attended your Vestry for Relief and was refused. These are therefore in his Majesty's name to summon you forthwith to appear before me or some other Justice

of the Peace for the said County to show cause why you do refuse to relieve the said James Compton and family and hereof you are not to fail. Given under my hand and seal the 6th day of August 1740.

Ha: Freke

Doc 8. Wills to Witt: Purton March 27th 1774

Notice is hereby given that a Rate of assessment made on the Inhabitants of this Parish for and towards the Relief of the Poor thereof at 10 (pence) in the Pound was on the 22nd day of this instant signed and allowed by Thomas Bush and Ferdinand Askew Esqs, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this county according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided.

the above notice was given in the Parish Church of Purton aforesaid on the day and year first above written

By me Chas Seymour – Parish Clerk

RBA visit 4.3.26 Document reference: D/EEL/E16

Outer: April 29. 1839
E Berens
[pencil] A Rev Berens was vicar of Shrivenham
Solicitor Highworth

Shrivenham Ap 29. 1839

Dear Sir

As I understand that you are to hold a Court at the Barrington Arms on Thursday next, I trust that you will not think me troublesome or officious if I take the liberty of calling your attention to a subject of much consequence to the good-order and comfort of the Parish, viz – the appointment of constables. The bad state of health under which your lamented father suffered for some years previous to his decease, of course, precluded his attendance at this Court, and Mr Hartley was necessarily unacquainted with the person who was proposed to him for the office. The consequence was that most unfit appointments were frequently made. Repeatedly men far advanced in years have come to me to be sworn in. Not long ago Mr Collins (whom you probably know) a very respectable farmer at Bourton and above eighty years of age was appointed to this office. This year I am informed they have at Bourton no Constable at all, but Mr Keyte of Bourton Wharf, who is I believe much above seventy was named as Tything man. He runs the office by proxy. I am aware that these appointments are made at the Michaelmas Court, but perhaps you may be able to supply the deficiency which (if my information is correct) exists in Bourton,

and perhaps we may wish for a little change at Shrivensham. All that I would request is that on such occasions you, as judge of the Court, would have the goodness to ask a few questions respecting the age, circumstances and general fitness of the person named, for the important and responsible, though troublesome office to which I have alluded.

There is another subject which I wish to mention to you. I am about to make a little purchase in Longcot, a small fraction of which is Copyhold, which will probably be surrendered to me on Thursday. All the deeds relating to this property had been for some time in the hands of Mr Harries of Faringdon and peculiar circumstances induced me to leave the whole business to him. I have to beg however that you will not consider this as in the slightest degree a token of withdrawal of confidence from your house, - a house with which I have been so long connected. As I have already ^{hinted} circumstances of a peculiar nature have in this instance induced me to leave the business in the hands in which I found it.

May I beg you, to present my best compliments to Mr Crowdy and your sisters and to believe me to be

Dear Sir

Very faithfully yours

E Berens.